

The Pawtucket School Committee held its organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at the Jenks/JMW Complex for Performing and Visual Arts Media Center, 350 Division Street, Pawtucket RI 02860. This meeting was opened to the public.

I. The meeting will come to order. Roll call:

The Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Deborah Cylke called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Spooner-here
Also in attendance was Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction, Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator and Ms. Vicki Bejma, Legal Counsel for the School Committee representing Mr. Stephen Robinson who will be late this evening.

1. Election of Clerk:

Ms. Cylke: At this time I would like to entertain nominations for election of the clerk.

Ms. Nordquist moved to nominate Dianna Liss for the position of Clerk of the Pawtucket School Committee. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Mr. Spooner: I am recusing myself from this vote due to the fact that Dianna is my sister.

Mrs. Cylke: All those in favor? Anyone opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote in favor; one recusal; no one opposed.

Ms. Dianna Liss is the clerk of the Pawtucket School Committee for 2011.

2. Election of Chairperson:

Ms. Liss: I'd like to entertain nominations to elect a chairperson.

Ms. Nordquist: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Tonight I have the honor of nominating someone who is no stranger to serving as chairman to the Pawtucket School Committee. Raymond Spooner is a proud graduate of Tolman High School. He is a devoted family man to his family who is here tonight; his wife Lee Anne, his son, Ryan who graduated from Tolman last year and his daughter, Megan who attends The Jacqueline M. Walsh School for Performing Arts. Ray shares in our beliefs that our children receive a quality education in the City of Pawtucket and that their education should be a top priority of this school committee. I know personally that Ray is fair, dedicated to his work and a straight shooter. All of these qualities will serve him well. I have full confidence in him to serve as a leader in these tough economic times and bring honor and professionalism to this committee. I had the opportunity to work with Ray during my first term and I've learned a lot from him over the years. I look forward to working with him again. I am confident that he will work well with all those who have an impact on education that our kids receive including all of the members of this committee, the School Department Administration, The Pawtucket Administrators' Association, The Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance, The Non Certified Union, Mayor Grebien and Members of the City Council.

Ms. Nordquist moved to nominate Mr. Raymond Spooner as chairman of the Pawtucket School Committee. Mr. Noonan seconded.

Ms. Liss: Is there a motion to close nominations for chairperson?

Ms. Nordquist moved to close nominations for election of chairperson. Mr. Tenreiro seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-Ray Spooner; Ms. Bonollo-Ray Spooner; Mr. Coughlin-Ray Spooner; Mr. Noonan-Raymond Spooner; Ms. Nordquist-Raymond Spooner; Mr. Spooner-Abstained; Mr. Tenreiro-Raymond Spooner.

Motion carried six in favor; one abstained.

Mr. Raymond Spooner, Jr. is Chairperson of the Pawtucket School Committee for 2011.

Mr. Spooner: I want to thank all the Committee Members for bestowing this on me. I want everybody to know right up front that isn't my committee, it's not Debbie's committee, it's our committee. As we all know with what's been going on in the news, we're in dire straits here in Pawtucket. I firmly believe in my heart this School Committee can do some great things. A couple of weeks ago I received an email from Mr. Coughlin and I'm not going to quote him, but essentially it said in a couple of years we can be a bunch of bumbling boobs or we can be remembered for doing some great things and getting this City back on track. Recently I told Debbie there is a rebirth in Pawtucket and I truly do believe that. Make no mistake about it; it's going to be painful at times. The problem just doesn't evolve around just the teachers, just the administrators or just the non-certified; it's all of us. So we can all agree to disagree. Everyone should be listened to and I think we can do some wonderful things and thank you.

3. Election of Deputy Chairperson:

Mr. Spooner: If I may I would like to entertain motions for the vice chair of the Committee.

Mr. Araujo: I would like to nominate Mr. Alan Tenreiro as the deputy chairperson of the Pawtucket School Committee. Alan has served as the chairperson of this committee previously. His experience will be of great value to this committee as a vice principal of the Smithfield School system I know he puts children first. I think he'd be a great person to back you up.

Mr. Araujo moved to nominate Mr. Alan Tenreiro as Deputy Chairperson of the Pawtucket School Committee. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Ms. Nordquist moved to close nominations for Deputy Chairperson. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-Alan Tenreiro; Ms. Bonollo-Alan Tenreiro; Mr. Coughlin-Alan Tenreiro; Mr. Noonan-Alan Tenreiro; Ms. Nordquist-Alan Tenreiro; Mr. Spooner-Alan Tenreiro; Mr. Tenreiro-Abstained

Motion carried six in favor; one abstained.

Mr. Alan Tenreiro is the Deputy Chairperson for the Pawtucket School Committee for 2011.

Mr. Tenreiro: I do thank you for your vote of confidence. I think we can come to three important things; 1) always keeping the focus on student achievement our top priority; 2) we need to correct this looming budget crisis that the entire City is in; 3) and this was important to me as I sat out in the audience at times and it's our own

governance and our own leadership and our own process up here and how we do things. That'll be one of the things I'll definitely be focusing in on this year and hopefully we'll be able to come together in a workshop at the very beginning of this session and come to an agreement on some codes of conduct and processes for our meetings. I do appreciate your vote of confidence and I do look forward to working with everybody.

II. Adjournment:

Mr. Coughlin moved to adjourn organizational meeting. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote all in favor.

The Chairman adjourned the January 11, 2011 organizational meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee at 6:10 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk**

Approved 2/15/11

The Chairperson commented that the following notice is given in accordance with section 42-46-5 of the RI General Laws, as needed: in accordance with the bylaws of the School Committee, regularly scheduled meetings of the Committee will be held on the following

dates during the calendar year 2011:

January 11, 2011; February 15, 2011; March 15, 2011; April 12, 2011; May 10, 2011; June 14, 2011; September 13, 2011; October 11, 2011; November 15, 2011; December 13, 2011.

All regular meetings are to be held at the Jenks/JMW Complex for Performing and Visual Arts Media Center, 350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI.

Mr. Coughlin moved to accept the regularly scheduled meeting dates for the calendar year 2011. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

The Pawtucket School Committee held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at the Jenks/JMW Complex for Performing and Visual Arts Media Center, 350 Division Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860. This meeting was opened to the public.

I. Meeting will come to order: Roll call:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Spooner-here

Also in attendance was Mrs. Cylke, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator and Ms. Vicki Bejma, Legal Counsel for the School Committee representing Mr. Stephen Robinson who will be late this evening.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Chairperson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson asked everyone to remain standing and asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Raymond Noonan; Committee Member, Mr. Noonan's father who passed away. I'm sure you're here with a heavy heart and we all appreciate your professionalism being here this evening.

Another person asked to be remembered was Mr. George Haddad. His son Joseph was a long term teacher; principal and administrator in this system and I thank you all for observing this.

III. Special Reports of Student Representatives:

Emily S./JMW Representative: We held our annual cabaret and raised \$2,500 for the travel club. We'd like to give special thanks to Mr. Marchetti and for all the sponsors. Auditions were completed at Goff and Jenks and out of district students and we received over one hundred applications. Our award winning debate team is doing very well this year and many of our team members are placing at the top spots. Our annual holiday performance was held on December 21st and it was nice to see the Jenks kids come to see us and we're getting along pretty nicely. JMW will hold its Winter Ball on January 14th.

Mr. Spooner: Before we move along here this evening, I'd like to recognize a couple of folks the first one is Dr. Dellith who was our former Superintendent and spent twelve years here and guided us. Thank you for your presence here it's good to see you sir. Second if we might, I noticed that our new Mayor has joined us this evening and I didn't know if he would like to approach and say a few words.

The Honorable Donald Grebien, Mayor, City of Pawtucket: I'm actually here for a few reasons, but I'll say a few words. Good evening everyone. As I talked on inauguration night a week ago Monday in trying to work in cooperation with and we will, I wanted to come out and commit my cooperation and my administrations cooperation with the Council meeting. I wanted to stress the obvious importance of working together as we go forward. I want to say that it's a wonderful opportunity with our new School Committee, our new Superintendent and I want to thank you new Superintendent. We had our first staff meeting today and we asked the different departments and directors to come in and be part of it to try to build a relationship and the communication between us. But with that, there's going to be some hard choices and hard decisions that we're all going to have to make. We know we're facing in the City a \$13 million deficit that we were all handed six on your side and seven on ours to use rough numbers. We started our union negotiations. We've been having discussions with them and we are very confident at the end of the day that we'll come to some sort of resolution, but it's not going to come without some tough decisions and working together. I just want to commit my support to you and to this committee that together we're going to have to make those tough decisions. I know that the teachers and our union folks are willing to work together. We need too. We've broken this down into two budget processes and we have six months of how do we bridge through this today, but we also have the \$10 million structural problem for the next five years. I think we need to look at it that way and I'm asking for your help to do that.

With that, we also have besides all the other responsibilities we are going to have, we also have the State looking over our shoulders. We've got an unofficial commitment from them that we won't be taken into receivership or instituting receivership or aspects of the receivership clause. However, they are wanting to meet with us on a regular basis. They are going to have oversight, but they are not going to invoke their right to receiver. With that, I know that there are going to be some members of the School Committee and the Superintendent's office and members of the Council and members of my office meeting this week just to show how serious the issues are and ask for what are plans are and to give us some guidance on that. So in that part of my responsibility I want to come here and offer my cooperation, ask for yours and we'll do our best to do show that we are communicating on a regular basis and building that relationship that I think has not been there for far too long. So I just want to thank you for the opportunity and I just want to let you know that Bryant University is going to be doing a leadership training for school committees. My administration and that of Mayor Tavares in Providence had the opportunity to do a leadership training and I would recommend if you can it gives you a different perspective on communication and different aspects of government and we are actually in this together. I know you'll be getting a memo if you haven't already and I just encourage you to do that. Thank you. If anyone has any comments or questions, I'd gladly listen to them and respond. So now to move on to what we are really here for tonight and that's to honor a special employee. Thank you.

IV. Recognition/Celebration:

Mrs. Cylke: Tonight it gives me great pleasure to introduce someone who is someone I met my very first day. My first impression was I always sum most women up when I meet them and that we're all female and a woman by gender but this person is a lady. A first class lady and we wanted to recognize someone special tonight. This is someone who has incredibly devoted sixty two years to public service and to the students of Pawtucket and it's really my honor to welcome and introduce Mary McGrath.

One thing that delights Mary is that she knows she is the teacher with the most seniority. Mrs. Cylke presented Mrs. McGrath with an enlarged seniority list, a plaque acknowledging her years of dedicated service and a bouquet of flowers. I'd like to recognize some of Mary's friends who are in the audience this evening. Once again, former Superintendent, Dr. Dellith, thank you for being here and her good, good friend Mr. Jon Anderson.

The Honorable Donald Grebien, Mayor, City of Pawtucket presented Mrs. McGrath with a proclamation and thanked her for her years of service.

Mrs. McGrath: Thank you, everyone, thank you.

V. Presentations:

Catch Grant/Medical Services at Shea High School—Mary Parella:

Ms. Parella: Good evening Mr. Chairman and congratulations on your election and congratulations to all of you on the School Committee for being elected and re-elected to continue to serve our students here. As you may know I am the director here of the Child

Opportunity Zone known as the Coz here in Pawtucket and that is the integrated services model. We link health education services with social services to support children and families so that they come to school ready to learn and leave school so that they are ready to become productive citizens. We have been working at that and a number of programs; the after school enrichment activities that we do at all the elementary schools and the summer program at the elementary and middle schools. Our adult education program and our dental program are our two largest programs and we do outreach and referral services for our kids. One of the things that's really been missing the last few years has been health care. As you may recall if you've been here a while is we used to have two school based health clinics. One was at Shea High School and one was at Slater Junior High. Due to direction of the State at that time and funding those were closed and we were not able to continue those services.

The school based health issue came about again in the summer when there was some funding to fix the physical space. That led to discussion with myself and Marie Riley to see what we could do to bring back some services. The idea that was presented to us was to look at the medical home model and to link with a local physician that would be interested in partnering with the School Department to provide a medical home and provide a local access into the schools and go after a "Catch Grant" which is a very small grant to make that happen. We're very fortunate that we have Dr. Tanya Becker who is a local pediatrician who has agreed to partner with us and is very enthusiastic and who is basically opening a satellite medical office in

piloting that at Shea High School right now. We also have with us Rosemary Reilly Chammat who is from the Department of Health and has long been an advocate and been with us for many years in the school based health base model. Once we felt that this was the way to go, we met with Kim and Central Administration and the School Department's physician is in support of this. So we are asking for your blessing to move forward on this project and I would like to turn it over to Marie Riley who will highlight the needs of the particular high school students that she works with and also to Tanya and Rosemary to make any comments or for any of us to answer any of your questions. Thank you.

Ms. Riley: Thank you I'd like to offer you congratulations as well and thank you for listening to us. Shea is a wonderfully diverse community of learners and as you know we have a large ESL population, we have poverty guidelines that we meet with a lot of other issues that our students present. But above and beyond their education we'd also like to provide them with the option for easily accessible medical care at home. A good 22 to 32% come from different countries and it's their first encounter with a medical provider. None of you have experienced that. Although Rhode Island has good involvement with Right Care, they don't know how to access it and they don't use it properly. They don't go see a doctor until they are sick. I have students who come to see me and they are sick. I ask them if they have a doctor and they tell me they don't know, they think so, they are not sure. About 64% of our students and families use walking as their primary mode of transportation.

They don't have any other means of getting around. Twenty two percent of our students work twenty hours or more a week after school in addition to being responsible for siblings and hopefully taking advantage of the extracurricular activities they have at Shea. These kids have acute episodic episodes in addition to strep infections, conjunctivitis; urinary tract infections; bronchitis, sinusitis and they don't get seen for several days by the time we get them to a doctor. So now they're out they're missing school and by the time we do get seen a lot of times it's through the emergency room which you know is not conducive to good health care. There's no continuity of care. That increases their absenteeism and reduces the amount of time they can be there to educate. In addition to that we're also dealing with the fact that it's the students first encounter with medical care and what better place for a student to learn about taking care of your body and better care of yourself than at school? We teach them to have a physical and to follow up. So we can do all these things at a school based health clinic and they're going to come in and they're going to tell the other kids that come in from other countries. So we will be able to offer all these things at Shea. I can't think of a better place to get this up and running. Dr. Becker is one of the few physicians in this area who has been able to accommodate my kids when I've called her over the past several years since we've lost the health clinic. Otherwise, I'm the only medical provider these kids have. We really need your support on this.

Dr. Becker: Hello and thank you so much for having us here tonight. I am a pediatrician and have been a pediatrician in the community of

Pawtucket for almost ten years now. I started out at Blackstone Valley Community Health Center and that was the point at which I was asked to be the physician in charge of the school based health centers. I was very saddened when those health centers had to close as I believed as Mary said it was an important addition to the health care of our students. Since then, I've had my own private practice on Armistice Boulevard in a little white house on Hatfield Street. I was very excited to hear about this continuing interest in establishing this school based health center. In looking at it from a different model, in the past the health center was something that we saw the kids in the school, but they had their own physicians or not in the community. The continuity of care was poor, the communication was poor and frequently the physicians wouldn't get papers and we wouldn't know who the physicians were and that continuity that's so important to us was not present. Recently we've been using a buzz word in health care called the "medical home." Really primary care physicians have always had a medical home. We've always been the physicians responsible for caring for a family; caring for children and being that person that a parent could call with a question; that child could come to see with an illness; that child could come to see on a regular basis for well visits, vaccinations, counseling whatever the case may be. I feel this opportunity to have this medical home in the school system is such a benefit to the kids because what that is allowing them is to have that medical home where they spend the majority of the day. The important factor is that parents work; they may not have the time to get them to the doctors they may never have been made to begin

with and there is no primary care physician. Having a satellite office in the school is allowing the students to see the doctor when they are sick right there that day. When they need physical exams for sports the doctor is right there in their school. They can be excused from class or schedule a time during a free period.

Ms. Chammat: Hello I'm Rosemary Reilly Chammat and I'm the adolescent health manager at the Rhode Island Department of Health and I won't explain anymore otherwise because I couldn't put it any better than Mary, Marie or Tanya just did. I will say from the Department of Health that we think this is such an important model in this Catch Grant and we encouraged Mary and her team to apply for because it's such a community driven process. Woonsocket did this a few years ago and have now opened a school based health clinic at the high school back up and also gotten back up from other community organizations there around adolescent issues really supporting that medical home concept. I really look forward to working with this team in making this model successful in Pawtucket.

Ms. Parella: The only thing I want to add is as with anything else, in making this a medical home for those students to see Dr. Becker, they would need the parents' permission to do that. I want to make sure you understand that. Parents are very good about getting young children to physicians but as they become older it becomes much more difficult and they lose time from school. We're hoping to start this as a pilot and hopefully it can expand from there.

Ms. Bonollo: I was reading the application and I understand it's a

\$12,000 grant. Dr. Becker, you're doing this out of kind?

Dr. Becker: Yes.

Ms. Bonollo: Thank you very much.

Ms. Parella: It would be working as I mentioned in the memo to make sure the kids are enrolled in right care if at all possible she would access because it is a satellite office of hers. She'd be responsible for the twenty four hour care of any of her patients. We would continue to look for further funding.

Ms. Riley: This would be the students' primary care physician and we would expect that the students got their physicals, their yearly check-ups; they would have the continuity of care and because of that they would also have the added provision of getting those acute episodic needs dealt with very quickly and get them back into school and learning.

Mr. Noonan: Do we have a partnership agreement with you, is that what I understand?

Ms. Parella: We don't at the moment.

Mr. Noonan: I'm just concerned about liability issues and everything that's covered.

Mrs. Cylke: One of the things that I promised is that we would bring all grant applications to the committee for the committee to approve the application itself. Once it's approved we would have legal counsel look at our agreement. The first step is for the School Committee to approve the grant and this type of support coming to Shea High School as a pilot.

Mr. Noonan moved to approve the Catch Grant application to bring

health services to the students at Shea Senior High School. Mr. Coughlin seconded.

Mr. Tenreiro: I think it's a great way to build community support around our local schools. We have the guidelines and that looks like \$12,000. Is that the expense for a six month period?

Ms. Parella: Yes.

Mr. Spooner: Mary as you well know you brought us the school clinics and they were done very well. I was here back then.

Ms. Parella: You and Dr. Dellith were here and I believe it was one of his first projects and there were problems with our medical doctors at that time.

Mr. Spooner: You know I support everything you bring to us because I know that they are all great causes. One of the things with the school based health clinics is that we set these up and they went great and then the funding runs out. There's no budgeted local money and we watch a great program go up in flames and it puts a bad taste in people's mouths. My first question is \$12,000 realistically from the four of you professionals; I just heard about all of the physicals getting done; is that realistic with the money?

Ms. Parella: It's realistic because it's a satellite office and not the school based health clinic where everyone was being seen regardless if they could pay in any way. So what I would hope is that Dr. Becker because she has been there is that Marie Riley would refer students to her and she would see students without any insurance. But there are many levels. They would have to agree that Dr. Becker becomes their physician. The parent has to approve of it and if there is

insurance they would have to bill their insurance. It is very difficult keeping all the programs afloat in this climate. We don't know where the health care reform act is going to go. I think the medical home act is a resurgence where it relates to the health care reform act in making sure there is care to medical home. What happens if Congress changes that, I don't really know. We keep trying our best and some of it was at the Health Department level, there was State funding and there are only eight school based health clinics in the state even though the need is great. We are going to try our best to keep these grants afloat.

Mr. Spooner: The only reason I ask is that when the money runs out you graciously come back and ask us if there is any way we can fund the program locally.

Ms. Parella: Every grant amount diminishes by some amount every year. We just keep trying and work as hard as we can to identify money and make sure the partnership continues and makes a big difference in what we were missing before in our school based health center at the very top with an enthusiastic partner at the director's level. Our former medical director was very difficult to negotiate and work with that entity. I think this is a breath of fresh air. We try to do the best by our children and our families.

Dr. Becker: With this new administration there has really been an resurgence in the interest in primary health care and seeing primary health care is really the means to a healthy end. I think that with this program this is a time not only with our up and coming health care changes but the resurgence with the primary health care programs

and we're seeing funding going into primary health care programs. We're seeing health insurance companies starting to recognize primary health care and increasing some of the reimbursement fees schedules. It never wants to be our downfall closing something that's so precious to our kids. I feel that I can reassure you that in this climate right now, the economics that we see that primary health care is getting more attention than it ever has.

Motion carried by voice vote all in favor.

Introduction of MGT Facilities Review Team:

Mrs. Cylke: I'd like to ask Ernie Morgan and Dds Cromwall to come up. When I first arrived in Pawtucket one of the concerns the School Committee had was concerning facilities. The last time a new school was built was 1976. We got our facilities sub-committee back together and I want to thank Mr. Knight and Ms. Bonollo for serving on that committee. We had to work very quickly and we had a RIDE representative, Mr. Joe DaSilva come in and meet with our group. We decided very early on that we would put out a comprehensive facilities study so we would have a really good idea of what it would take to bring each of our schools to twenty first century conditions. I want to introduce Dds Cromwall of MGT. They're a firm out of Washington and they secured the job with us. Through this process I learned Ernie Morgan from our data processing office had a background in project management and he is our project manager. Tom is working on the business side of it making sure we are compliant with RIDE. We look forward to bringing back to the committee by March a comprehensive facilities assessment.

Mr. Cromwall: Mr. Chairman, Committee Members, thank you for inviting us here tonight. I just want to give you a brief introduction to MGT America and a brief overview of the assessment of what we will be providing your school department.

MGT is a national public sector consultant firm and we work in both K-12 and higher education, criminal justice fields, state and local governments and we have six offices across the country. The office we are housed in would be Washington. We focus on school facilities and assessment planning. We work with school districts across the country and state departments in helping assess the current conditions of schools and helping assess the needs of the future. We've worked with larger school districts and rural school districts. I'll be going to Indiana to work with a three school district and I have colleagues who are in Georgia working in one of the largest school districts there. We bring a diverse background of experience. As far as a master planner we start by looking at the education program and that should drive the facility need. We look at demographics to see whether a district is growing or losing students. We look at capacity and utilization of schools. How many students can a school hold given the current educational programs. We do facilities assessments and that is what we are focusing on in this study here for you. The goals of this project are to do assessments of all your schools. The assessments include four different assessments; building condition assessment which looks at the condition of the building, whether the roof leaks; the doors work; whether the carpet is worn; and we look at all the different building systems. We'll do a

site condition assessment which will be the condition of the site which will be all the elements of the site outside the building; the driveways; the parking lots and the playground equipment. We will also do an educational suitability assessment, that is, how well does the building suit the educational program that you're operating in that school. Does it have the correct and appropriate size spaces to create that program no matter whatever that is. Are they the right size, do they have the right equipment in them? We first sit down with your staff and find out about your standards and calibrate to those standards. The fourth assessment is the technology readiness assessment and that looks at the structure of building and how well it supports information technology. We work very closely with your technology people. We will take all that assessment data and put together recommendations and budgets for prioritization to look at what should be the highest priorities. We will put that data together so that it can be submitted to the Department of Education for your RIDE application so you can get your capital funding.

In February we'll start looking at the results of those assessments and developing prioritization and ranking standards so you can look at prioritizing the needs of your district and develop budget estimates and present a final report by the end of February.

Each school will have four scores in their assessment and we'll take those scores and weigh them appropriately and how they want to prioritize things and come up with a combined score so that when this is presented to the public they'll understand the school with the greater need.

Mr. Coughlin: What expertise are your assessors bringing to the table? Are they architects; engineers; education experts; some kind of combination?

Mr. Cromwall: There will be two teams with two members each. One will be architect and the other member will be an educator with an education background. I myself have had experience as both an architect and a classroom teacher. Our firm is heavily weighted by educators.

Mr. Noonan: I was not a member of the facilities sub-committee, but I have also not seen a scope of work. Your site condition analysis, does that include soil analysis?

Mr. Cromwall: No.

Mr. Araujo: The realistic budget estimate, the construction costs is that based on local construction prices or national construction prices? I'm quite sure every area in the country would have different prices for construction based on how the economy is there. Is that based on construction costs in this area?

Mr. Cromwall: The short answer is it would be local construction costs. I forgot to mention that part of our firm is the H. L. Turner Group who is an architectural firm who will be working with us to do the assessments and also help develop accurate costs.

Mr. Noonan: Congratulations on winning the bid.

Mr. Cromwall: Thank you.

Mr. Tenreiro: Are these site assessments being done after hours or when students are in the buildings?

Mr. Cromwall: During the school day. It's valuable to see the

conditions that the students and teachers are working in. We're very experienced in this and I don't think you'll see this as an intrusion or disruption to your school at all.

Mrs. Cylke: This provides us with two great opportunities. One is to get a real good grasp to get an update on our schools and it will give us an opportunity to update our educational specifications. I'm coming from a system where we were building four new schools a year. Our educational specifications were very up to date. One thing our team will have to do is look at current specifications using national standards and updating that for our elementary school setting, middle school setting and high school setting. There is also a number that is so low that you probably shouldn't be putting any more money into that school. So when that assessment comes back, I know we have many old structures here. What I like about this firm is that they have done a lot of work in the Midwest and they have a lot of old schools.

Mr. Spooner: For the next meeting could we have a listing of all the bond money that is still available and from what year and what we're still working with?

Mr. Scallin: There isn't much left, this pretty much clears it up.

Mrs. Cylke: I will put that in my Friday report. If I may legal counsel has indicated that they will be delayed this evening and if it pleases the committee, if we could move on with the agenda to item X. public participation it would serve everyone best.

Mr. Tenreiro: Without any objection I think the Chairman can move items VI through VIII to after XIII on the agenda and I think that's been

a request a long time in coming. Hopefully in the future we will make that decision to move that along to the end.

There was no objection and these items were moved for discussion after item number XIII.

IX. Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes 12/14/10:

Ms. Nordquist moved to accept the previous meetings' minutes 12/14/10. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

The Chairperson requested a roll call vote due to the fact that there are three new members.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-abstained; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-abstained; Mr. Spooner-abstained.

Motion passed four in favor; three abstained.

X. Public Participation:

This item was passed. No one signed up to speak.

XI. New Business No. 1 Election of Sub-Committee Members:

Mrs. Cylke: We're asking for your approval if it would please the Committee that we continue and if you would like to join sub-committees and express that interest or for the Committee to choose not to continue with the sub-committees.

Mr. Spooner: I remember when we had a discussion about this and I was never a big sub-committee person, but I also understand that there are some good sub-committees going on right now. I know Ms. Bonollo is really going to town and she talked to me about facilities and I would be more than willing to help her out. I would ask anyone

on this committee that if there is anything that is near and dear to their heart to please form it. I'm not going to make it mandatory for any school committee member. I've been down this road before. I know that there are things that Mrs. Cylke would ask that they participate in, but I will not make them mandatory.

Ms. Nordquist: I just want to point out that I think the wellness sub-committee is required by State law and that one needs to continue.

Mr. Spooner: You're right and that one will continue.

Mrs. Cylke: Where we have vacancies are on the emergency management; labor subcommittee and also on the finance .

Mr. Spooner: In regards to the labor, we had a discussion about Mr. Chellel and we are about transparency here obviously. There was a request from Mr. Chellel since he started with the negotiations to stay on it if there was no objection from the rest of this committee. Now obviously this goes through all of us. If there is an objection, please speak up.

Mr. Noonan: He isn't a member of this committee so I object to it.

Ms. Bonollo: I would like to know if it's legal.

Mr. Spooner: I will say for the record I trust Jimmy and there are going to be tough issues for all of us.

Mrs. Cylke: My concern and what I brought up is when you are starting something with a committee that hasn't finished, what's the role? It may be for us to ask legal counsel when we have that opportunity.

Mr. Noonan: He's going to continue on in this capacity?

Mr. Spooner: Yes.

Mr. Noonan: Then I'll withdraw my objection with Mr. Chellel pending legal counsel approval.

Ms. Bonollo: When you check with legal counsel, will check to see if this sets a precedent for outside participation for members to be a part of?

Mr. Spooner: Absolutely.

Ms. Nordquist: I think in this case I hope its okay with the Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance for him to continue.

Mr. Tenreiro: I think sub-committees are a place that leave room for more discussion and I come from a place that believes where we think how this committee wants to do business. This group of seven is empowered to only act as the School Committee and I know Mr. Coughlin that the group you're president elect of—the RIASC, they talk about a number of the pitfalls that we can run into when we have sub-committees. The two theories are that you committee us to death and we have seven members and we already have five committees and they're looking to add the recycling committee and every other committee that we can think of in that we do business that way and that we manage business that way. Or that we manage the school district from a broad policy prospective and we direct employees and professionals that we have hired to execute and implement this policy. We hold them accountable for these policies. The whole group here can deliberate issues. I don't think there is a need for the whole group of sub-committees that we have. Just to read some of those pitfalls, the committees can lead to micromanagement; they

can be used as a mechanism for more decisions that put off deliberations or determinations by the full committee; you can overstep very easily the relationship with the school staff; they dilute the purpose of our time and energy; they confuse responsibility with our time and authority; they create a bottleneck stalling tactic of consideration for important items. To me this group of seven we have an extra monthly meeting rotated in one of the schools that exist. To continue to have these committees to have them do the jobs of the people that we have hired to do is a waste. I have no problem with the one that has been state mandated like the wellness committee and of course negotiation committee if that is what labor has been doing. It's an ad hoc group that has been charged with a temporary group there to deal with something that is extremely time consuming; can be very detailed and of course it makes sense when you have a smaller group but of course I think the whole group should be invited to those meetings. I think we need to step back and have some conversation at another time. The labor sub-committee we need to get in order now. We can't go past today without having that done. We have to consider what's happening with these other committees. We should all have equal access to the same information. I just don't understand why we have all these committees and we're going to do all of that, when we can have a second meeting a month and deal with things that way.

Mr. Coughlin: Mr. Chairman just to check something for a minute, there is precedence on this School Committee for including outsiders on School Committee Sub-Committees. The best example is the

Superintendent Search Committee—that was a twenty two member sub-committee seven of whom were School Committee personnel and the others being of which came from outside the committee. The only restriction we put on them was that they did not have any voting rights on election; compensation or any of those matters that were germane to the school committee proper. Remember that the activities that are being done here perhaps a labor sub-committee isn't even the way to be going. Perhaps we could consider letting the Superintendent carry out the negotiations. The one restriction would be she could not approve the deal. Anything would have to be brought back to this committee for ratification. But it is the Superintendent's organization and the Superintendent's budget which is basically the out product of any contract negotiations.

Mr. Spooner: I'm aware of the labor sub-committee that's been going on. How many times has that labor sub-committee met so far?

Ms. Nordquist: We negotiated a contract last year and met several times. Since the recent request to re-open we met three times in December and we are waiting now to reconvene. I have to say having been part of that it is lengthy, time consuming and you have to have good rapport with negotiating back and forth. I am fully opposed with the Superintendent doing negotiations. I think the School Committee is fully responsible for this and we should continue with this committee. I'm not even sure the other sub-committees met on a regular basis, the emergency management and finance sub-committees. Obviously the whole School Committee is going to vote on the whole contract, but you need a core group of people who

are going to meet with the Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance.

Mr. Spooner: I just want to say on the labor end of this it's the duty of the School Committee to negotiate the contracts, that's the state law. I would hope that there are members here who want to be involved in that process. We all know it's going to be a tough negotiation. With all due respect, Mr. Coughlin, I do not feel comfortable letting only the Superintendent, herself negotiating contracts. I think we need to meet on that and that is a priority. This is about everybody and it's going to be painful. I know Mrs. Cylke is trying to do everything she can and having lay-offs be the last resort. But it's going to be tough. I would just hope that there are people on this committee that would want to march forward and ask anyone who wants to be involved in that process to please speak now.

Mr. Tenreiro: The committee would act empowered by the entire committee. I think the model you see at times in the room is that the Superintendent is the lead negotiator but I do believe that there needs to be committee leadership on an ad hoc committee like that. I would be interested in serving on that group. Where do you think we go from here right now?

Mrs. Cylke: There have been three people on the committee; Mr. Chellel, Ms. Bonollo and Ms. Nordquist. When I was interviewed about this position, I am not from a system where the Superintendent was involved in negotiations directly. But was the support person along with the business finance person or the CFO because negotiations always involve monetary factors. I would agree Ms. Nordquist, its very time consuming and probably unrealistic that the

Superintendent would be the lead person. I will serve at the pleasure of the board. I see my role right now as not being involved in negotiations. It's been clear to me that that's a sub-committee task and my staff is tasked with providing financial information to that committee. I see Ms. Mercer and she's been in the district for many years and she has good ideas and I think I have some good ideas to find some win win. So there may be an opportunity for my staff to sit with that committee as a whole and share our thoughts with you as to how we might meet the needs of our employees and at the same time be fiscally responsive.

Ms. Nordquist: I think it's very important going forward that we do have that because we did not have that opportunity in December to meet with Mr. Conlon, Mrs. Cylke and Ms. Mercer prior to meeting with the Teachers' Alliance so it kind of a little bit with one person, Chairman Chellel knowing the information of what the Superintendent wanted to do without myself or Ms. Bonollo knowing that. I think that if this committee is formed tonight we should be given that opportunity so that when we do meet, we are all on the same page of where we are going.

Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve the wellness sub-committee. Mr. Coughlin seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote all in favor.

Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve the labor sub-committee.

Mr. Tenreiro withdrew his motion to approve the labor sub-committee.

Mr. Noonan: I disapprove of that committee. I want a professional negotiator to handle the contract and not the Superintendent. Sorry

Debbie. I think that personal feelings get involved here and these are very hard and tough negotiations.

Mr. Tenreiro: Mrs. Cylke, is there a January workshop on the budget that we might be able to complete these?

Mrs. Cylke: Now that we have a chairman, I have a suggested calendar to distribute and I think that we have a lot of work to do in the coming weeks and there is definitely a lot of work we need to do.

Mr. Tenreiro moved to table the rest of the sub-committees until the budget workshop in January. **Mr. Noonan** seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote six in favor; Ms. Nordquist opposed.

Ms. Nordquist: I object to tabling because we had to wait for a new School Committee and now that we have that we're being asked for a professional negotiator. We've done it in the past, so I don't see why we can't continue with the way we've been doing it.

XI. New Business No. 2 Appointments:

Mrs. Cylke: This evening we're asking for the School Committee to approve the appointment of Joanne Doyle; Assistant Swim Coach at Charles Shea Senior High School.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the appointment of Joanne Doyle as Assistant Swim Coach at Charles Shea Senior High School. **Mr. Coughlin** seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote all in favor.

XI. New Business No. 3 Award of Bid—Security Cameras

Mr. Scallin: First of all there is no school tomorrow. Ray and Alan welcome back. Mike good luck to you. We have an award of bid tonight for security cameras at Slater Junior High School. We had

five bidders and I'm recommending that the Advanced Telesystems Group Inc. be awarded the base bid amount of \$59,500. They did the security cameras here at Jenks during the summer and they did a fine job and it's funded by the Homeland Security Grant which is even better.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the security camera bid at Slater Junior High School to Advanced Telesystems Group Inc in the base bid amount of \$59,500. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote all in favor.

Mr. Spooner: I noticed when reading it said the apparent low bid, it was the low bid, right?

Mr. Scallin: That was a typo.

XI. New Business No. 4 Discussion on Creation of Recycling Committee:

Mr. Spooner: I can see that the previous committee passed on that a couple of times. As Chair I just have a question. Don't we have a City Ordinance on recycling?

Ms. Bonollo: We recycle paper in the schools. We don't recycle plastics. One of the issues that have come up is the potential of pests arriving in the school from soda bottles and other things that are left in the recycling bins. That was one of the reasons that has never been addressed. On the other hand Sodexo eliminated all their Styrofoam so we are using all recyclables as far as that goes.

Mr. Tenreiro: I happened to talk to the food service director at our school and annually we generally throw out approximately 28,000 bottles a year based on their sales. I think it's a great lesson for

students. As for the formation of the committee, I think this is clearly one of those things because I don't want to be counting how many recycling bins they have in the elementary schools. We can ask the Superintendent to come back with a policy about recycling in the schools and that she can work with the principals, perhaps the honor societies at the high schools and Mr. Scallin to create a plan and or policy for implementation of full recycling and what resources she might need from us and the City side. I know that the district I'm in is that their pickup was bad and so these things would over fill and the City wasn't picking up regularly and that was a problem. So that would be my suggestion again instead of a committee by this group.

Ms. Nordquist: Just to refresh you that the City benefits financially from the more recyclables they get and I agree with Mr. Tenreiro that this is something we should continue to work on.

Mr. Araujo: Currently we recycle the paper, does the City take that, pick it up or do we pick it up or is it an outside contractor?

Mr. Scallin: We do recycle paper and cardboard once a week. As far as the bottles and cans you are going to have to get the City involved and they don't have the capacity to handle the pickups here. They're the people that do the paper or the cardboard, but they're very good. But you are going to have to get them involved.

Mr. Araujo: That's the thing, Ms. Superintendent, when you come to the table the concern would be whether or not there are going to be costs involved. How much it's going to be and how much is going to be put on the City.

Mr. Noonan: I don't know what the intricacy is going to be with this

plan but we do not need a sub-committee for that. I hate to put another burden on you Ms. Superintendent but I would concur with Mr. Tenreiro on this.

XII. Special Report of the Superintendent of Schools:

Mrs. Cylke: Mr. Scallin is correct we have called a snow day for tomorrow. I really have a rule of thumb and typically I won't call school until 4:00 in the morning. Too often the weather report is not accurate. My husband was due in from Nevada tomorrow and he called me and told me he wasn't flying in because of the storm which he was for sure he was coming. So that got my attention. He worked for the National Weather Service as a meteorologist. I tend to believe him. This evening Mr. Howe who keeps in contact with the State Emergency Management Team believes there will be dangerous conditions on the roads and at four or five in the morning it might look clear, but we certainly don't want to jeopardize the safety of our employees or of our students and I'd rather be criticized for erring the side of safety.

I did meet with Mayor Grebien's staff today and he did tell me of his expectations of his cultural of staff and with the City and I think the New Year is off to a great start. We had two unanimous votes to start off the year and that made me smile. We'll be starting soon the innovative grant pilot program at Fallon and Goff and Ms. Mercer and Ms. Ramzi and Ms. Diorio as well as several other staff members has been serving on that committee and members of the Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance. We're now at that pilot stage with that new evaluation tool so we'll now be at that practice and that will give us a

new feel for what adjustments we need to make. I feel very confident we'll move forward in a very positive way.

I want to share with the Committee that the Core leadership team has finished a book study recently called leading with equity and it's a Harvard study in an urban school district that is really seeing great achievement and closing achievement gaps. I've ordered a copy so I'd be happy to share it.

This marks my first six months with the committee and I want to leave you with my six month plan and it is a draft at this point. I would like your input. The goals I've set out are in the five areas that were in my ninety day entry plan and that is that we work together as a governance team. Our organizational and alliance; educational and finance; student achievement and public relations. I always get stressed when I'm writing this, because I always ask myself do I always have time to do this. What are those things that are important to you that are missing from my plan? How will we ensure success for all students? How will we ensure success for all employees? How will we ensure success of all resources and appropriately align them with the school department's goals? There are many factors that go into the Superintendent goal setting. One is the Pawtucket School Department's educational audit which I've already given to your by Dr. Robert Schiller. The RI Basic Educational Plan which went into effect July 1st. The local education basic indicators from RIDE. Central office organization for district wide teaching and learning. The achievement gap leadership from Harvard. The Gwinnett County Public Schools Report.

XIII. Special Report of School Committee Members:

Mr. Araujo: I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you members of the school committee as we work as a cohesive unit, as a team for the better quality education in Pawtucket that the children deserve. Thank you.

Ms. Bonollo: I just want to welcome Ray, Alan and Mike. Thank you for joining us and I look forward to two productive years. Thank you.

Mr. Coughlin: If this meeting is any indication of where we're going, it looks great and I'm looking forward the next two years.

Mr. Noonan: My father was an example of the greatness of Pawtucket Schools. He graduated from Pawtucket High in 1932, went on to Brown and was captain of the basketball team and went to Harvard Law School. My mother graduated from Pawtucket High in 1934 and went to RISD and was a teacher in the Pawtucket School System. They provided me with opportunity to do many things in life and I thank them both for it. But most importantly, they never forgot the value of a public education and how important it was to our society. I have a commitment and I value that commitment to see what we can do to fix what is wrong and get back to the greatness of that time, but I'll do my best to try and get there. Thank you.

Ms. Nordquist: I think I very much share the sentiments of my colleagues when so far as to say I'm very excited to working with this new committee and to welcome back Alan and Ray and welcome Mike. I think our priorities are in order to make this a great two years and I'm very much looking forward to working with everybody to protect the quality of education in this City. Thank you.

Mr. Tenreiro: I just want the opportunity to say that I hope this is the last time we have this actual agenda item, special reports of school committee members. I think it's one where we just have to take a look at it and I've sat in the audience before and I've seen it become a soap box for maybe when you lose a vote. I think it's a slippery slope when you have a meetings law violation and it's not on many districts agenda so I'm using this part of the agenda to say that this may one where we want to take a look at removing. Thank you.

Mr. Spooner: I just want to reiterate that email that David sent to me. I think that we're going to do some great things together. I know there are some people that are deeply impassioned in certain areas. I know Mrs. Cylke is committed. I know most people know I'm a Tolman Tiger and my son still tells me it's the best four years he's ever spent in the school system and I'd be remised if I didn't say "go Tigers."

VI. Possible to Executive Session:

The Chairperson commented that the committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, subsection 5 (a) (2) (legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining) of the General Laws of the State of R. I. for the purpose of discussing and or acting upon: update on pending litigation—adequacy, grievance arbitrations, and retiree benefits; update on budget status; Deputy Superintendent's Contract; teachers and non certified contract negotiations update and to seal executive session minutes.

Ms. Bonollo moved to recess to executive session. **Mr. Coughlin**

seconded.

Roll call:

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes;
Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes**

The Committee recessed to executive session at 8:05 PM to 9:45 PM.

VII. Reconvene Open Session-Roll call:

The Committee reconvened to open session at 9:49 PM.

Roll call:

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Ms.
Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Spooner-here**

Mr. Noonan left the executive session at 9:26 PM.

VIII. Report out vote(s) of executive session of 01/11/11, if applicable:

**The Chairperson asked the Clerk if there were any votes to report out
of executive session. The Clerk reported that the committee voted
unanimously to approve a memorandum of understanding for the
Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Kim Mercer, to seal the executive session
minutes and to adjourn the executive session.**

XIV. Adjournment:

Ms. Bonollo moved to adjourn. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote all in favor.

**The Chairperson adjourned the January 11, 2011 regular meeting of
the Pawtucket School Committee at 9:50 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved 2/15/11